

# DEBRA BOWEN

## CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE NEWS RELEASE

DB07:111

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 21, 2007

Contact: Nicole Winger  
(916) 653-6575

### Secretary of State Debra Bowen Reports Half-Million New California Voters Registered Since Last Presidential Primary

**SACRAMENTO** – Five-hundred thousand more Californians are registered to vote than there were at this time before the last Presidential Primary Election four years ago, according to the Secretary of State's newest Report of Registration released today.

The report, with data gathered 60 days before a statewide primary election, reflects updates to voter registration rolls, including the removal of those who have passed away, moved out of state, or have been determined to be ineligible to vote, as well as the addition of new registrants.

When compared to the same period before the last presidential primary, registration lags behind California's population growth. While the overall registration number has grown, the percentage of people who are eligible to vote and actually registered to vote has dipped from about 68.4% to just below 67.3%. The drop is partly due to better tracking and removal of so-called "deadwood" from the voter registration rolls.

"Californians have a chance to shape the presidential race with the earlier primary election, and the critical first step is registering to vote," said Secretary Bowen, the state's chief elections officer. "There are still 31 days left to register to vote before the registration period closes January 22."

The registration totals for the six qualified political parties and voters who have declined to state their political affiliation are:

	<u>Dec 7, 2007</u>		<u>Jan 2, 2004</u>	
<u>Political Party</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u># Registered</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
American Independent	320,435	2.07 %	287,412	1.92 %
Democratic	6,598,773	42.66 %	6,450,624	43.16 %
Green	132,501	0.86 %	162,354	1.09 %
Libertarian	81,906	0.53 %	86,118	0.58 %
Peace and Freedom	57,013	0.37 %	71,441	0.48 %
Republican	5,190,179	33.55 %	5,330,536	35.67 %
Decline to State	2,990,143	19.33 %	2,433,134	16.28 %
Miscellaneous	97,601	0.63 %	123,412	0.83 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,468,551</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>14,945,031</b>	<b>100 %*</b>

\* 2004 total also includes voters affiliated with the Natural Law party, which is no longer qualified in California.

– MORE –

Both of the major political parties have seen their registration percentages fall as more voters decline to state a political affiliation. Nearly 20% of California registered voters choose not to affiliate with any political party.

Nearly 43% of California voters are registered Democrats. Alameda, Imperial, and San Francisco counties have the highest percentages of Democratic voters. Almost 34% of registered voters are Republicans. The counties with the highest concentration of GOP voters are Placer, Modoc, and Sutter.

The American Independent and Democratic parties will allow decline-to-state voters to vote in their parties' presidential primaries. The other four political parties have "closed" primaries. No decline-to-state voter can request more than one party's ballot, and if a decline-to-state voter does not request a specific ballot, a nonpartisan ballot with only ballot measures and nonpartisan offices will be provided.

The bulk of California's voters are clustered in Southern California, in Los Angeles (3.9 million voters), Orange (1.5 million voters), San Diego (1.3 million voters), San Bernardino (724,682 voters), and Riverside (711,703 voters) counties.

By law, voter registration updates must occur 154, 60, and 15 days before each statewide primary election, and 60 days and 15 days before each general election. There is one off-year update released in February of non-election years.

Fewer people are on the voter rolls than in September 2007, when the 154-day Report of Registration was released.

The complete December 7, 2007, Report of Registration is on the Secretary of State's website at [http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_u.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_u.htm). Hard copies are available to the media upon request through the Secretary of State's Communications Office at (916) 653-6575.

The last day to register to vote in the February 5, 2008, Presidential Primary Election is January 22, and the last day to sign up for a vote-by-mail ballot is January 29.

###